Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): A device for applying a magnetic field to a microtiter plate, said device comprising:

a substrate; and

a plurality of magnetic elements disposed on said substrate, wherein said plurality of magnetic elements are arranged parallel to each other such that the centerline longitudinal axis of each magnetic element is approximately centered directly under an entire ~~a~~ row or column of wells of a microtiter plate when said microtiter plate is positioned upon the device.

2 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of polymers, plastics, pyrex, quartz, resins, silicon, silica, silica-based materials, carbon, metals, inorganic glass and combinations thereof.

3 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said substrate is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of organic, inorganic, biological, nonbiological materials and combinations thereof.

4 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said substrate is substantially disc-shaped, square-shaped, rectangle-shaped or combinations thereof.

5 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said substrate has substantially the same shape and size as said microtiter plate.

6 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises one magnetic element for each column of wells of the microtiter plate.

7 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises twenty-four magnetic elements and the longitudinal axis of each element is approximately centered under a column of wells of a 384-well microtiter plate.

8 (original): The device of claim 6, wherein each magnetic element is approximately the same length of a column of wells of the microtiter plate.

9 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises one magnetic element for each row of wells of the microtiter plate.

10 (original): The device of claim 9, wherein the device comprises sixteen magnetic elements and the longitudinal axis of each element is approximately centered under a row of wells of a 384-well microtiter plate.

11 (original): The device of claim 9, wherein each magnetic element is approximately the same length of a row of wells of the microtiter plate.

12 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein adjacent magnetic elements are in contact with each other.

13 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein adjacent magnetic elements are separated from on another by a non-magnetic material.

14 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein each magnetic element is approximately as wide as the diameter of a well of the microtiter plate.

15 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the device does not include a mechanism for horizontal circular translation of the microtiter plate.

16 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises a microtiter plate positioned upon the magnetic elements.

17 (original): The device of claim 16, wherein one or more wells of the microtiter plate contains a suspension of magnetic particles.

18 (original): The device of claim 17, wherein the suspension comprises immunoassay reagents.

19 (original): The device of claim 17, wherein the suspension comprises a primer extension reaction.

20 (original): The device of claim 19, wherein the primer extension reaction is a DNA sequencing reaction.

21 (original): The device of claim 19, wherein the suspension comprises dye-labeled molecules and a polymer into which dye-labeled molecules are incorporated, and particles that comprise a paramagnetic moiety and a porous hydrophobic material entrapped within a hydrophilic matrix.

22-25 (canceled)

23 (new): The device of claim 1, wherein each of said magnetic elements is configured to form a magnetic field having a strength greater than approximately twelve Kgauss.